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SUBJECT: AFL-CIO POLICY STATEMENT ON CONTACTS WITH
"TOTALITARIAN LABOR FRONT ORGANIZATIONS."

ATTENTION LABOR ATTACHES

IN VIEW OF THE UPCOMING EAST-WEST TRADE UNION CONFERENCE
IN GENEVA FEBRUARY 28-MARCH 1, THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT
ON "DISINTEGRATION OF FREE TRADE UNION PRINCIPLES IN
WESTERN EUROPE" ADOPTED BY THE AFL-CIO EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
ON FEBRUARY 18, 1975 WILL BE OF INTEREST TO ALL LABOR
ATTACHES:

QUOTE THE AFL-CIO EXECUTIVE COUNCIL EXPRESSES ITS OPPOSITION
TO ANY AND ALL EXCHANGES WITH TOTALITARIAN LABOR FRONT
ORGANIZATIONS, PARTICULARLY THOSE OF THE SOVIET UNION AND
ITS SATELLITE STATES. THE AFL-CIO EXECUTIVE COUNCIL VIEWS
THE FRATERNIZATION OF DEMOCRATIC WESTERN EUROPEAN LABOR
CENTERS WITH COMMUNIST PARTY LABOR FRONTS WITH DISGUST.

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PAGE 02 STATE 041440

THE FOUNDING CONVENTION OF THE AFL-CIO IN DECEMBER 1955,
RESOLVED THAT:

INNER QUOTE THE AFL-CIO REJECTS, AS A MATTER OF PRINCIPLE,

THE IDEA OF FREE LABOR SENDING DELEGATIONS TO ANY COUNTRY
WHICH PROHIBITS FREE TRADE UNIONS, OUTLAWS ALL FREE TRADE
UNION ACTIVITIES AND PENALIZES WORKERS FOR ADVOCATING
FREE TRADE UNIONISM -- WHETHER SUCH COUNTRIES BE COMMUNIST
OR FASCIST OR ANY OTHER TOTALITARIAN HUE.....MOSCOW WANTS
FREE TRADE UNION DELEGATION VISITS TO LEND MORAL
RESPECTABILITY AND LEGITIMACY TO ITS REGIME WHICH HAS
ROBBED ITS PEOPLE OF EVERY FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT, KEEPS
MILLIONS OF ITS SUBJECTS IN SLAVE LAOR CAMPS AND DENIES
THE WORKERS THE RIGHT OF FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION AND
ORGANIZATION, THE RIGHT OF GENUINE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING,
AND THE RIGHT TO STRIKE. END INNER QUOTE

THE EAST--WEST TRADE UNION CONFERENCE, TO BE HELD UNDER THE
ROOF OF THE ILO THIS MONTH IN GENEVA, IS ANOTHER EXAMPLE
OF A LONG-SOUGHT SOVIET POLITICAL GOAL, FINALLY WON
THROUGH PATIENT CULTIVATION OF WESTERN EUROPEAN LABOR
CENTERS THROUGH EXCHANGE VISITS AND MUTUAL ENDEAVOR.
LIMITED TO A DISCUSSION OF THE WORK-PLACE ENVIRONMENT AND
TOXICS IN INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION, THE EAST-WEST MEETING IS
NONETHELESS A VISITILE PRODUCT OF HYPOCRISY.

THE AFL-CIO EXECUTIVE COUNCIL REAFFIRMS ITS POLICY
REGARDING EXCHANGES WITH TOTALITARIAN LABOR FRONTS. THE
AFL-CIO WILL NOT COMPROMISE ITS ORGANIZATIONAL FREEDOM
BY PAYING HOMAGE TO THE SO-CALLED "LABOR MOVEMENTS" OF
TOTALITARIAN REGIMES THROUGH PROGRAMS OF EXCHANGE AND
COOPERATION. WE ARE SADDENED AND CONCERNED BY THE
DISSOLUTION OF THAT RESOLVE IN THE WESTERN EUROPEAN LABOR
BODIES, THE LAST BASTIONS OF FREEDOM IN A DISUNITED
EUROPE. END QUOTE KISSINGER

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